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Front Page Edit Page Other Page

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Washington Merry-Go-Round:

Red Papers Go Untranslated

By DREW PEARSON

IT MAY BE hard to believe, but the Administration has been so complacent about Soviet scientific progress that it hasn't bothered to translate the Russian technological documents that enter this country, except for a few hit-and-miss translations.

Truckloads of scientific papers and reports, containing clues to Russia's brainwork, are piled up in the Library of Congress, unsorted and untranslated.

Soviet Secrets

Our technologists are convinced they could learn more Soviet secrets by reading these papers than all the reports of the costly Central Intelligence Agency.

It would cost an estimated \$1.5 million to translate and catalogue 80 per cent of the most important reports—a mere fraction of the CIA budget. Yet these papers are known to contain vital information on such Soviet programs as missile and satellite research.

The Administration has had the smug attitude that our scientists are so superior we must protect our technological secrets. We needn't bother to learn Russian secrets.

American scientific delegations that fall behind the Iron Curtain are given stern warnings not to disclose technical information of a security nature.

Governments also give many agents a careful briefing that NOT to say

before Communist delegations are escorted through American factories.

Yet the Administration has all but ignored Russian technical information reaching this country. If this information were properly catalogued by subject matter, it would not only help our scientists in their research but would enable them to evaluate the level of Soviet scientific development.

Our technologists have found that Russian scientists discuss their findings with amazing frankness in their technical papers. Russia publishes about 25,000 technical journals, of which less than 1,000 are considered important. Of these, 80 journals contain most of Russia's research.

Yet the Library of Con-

gress translates only occasional passages from these key journals. Private universities also do some translating. But the mass of Russian technical intelligence is never read by American experts.

Greatest Scandal?

In the light of Russia's missile-satellite achievements, this failure to study Soviet scientific documents may go down as the greatest scandal of the Eisenhower Administration.

Note: The CIA secretly translates Russian military documents, including some containing technical data. But the CIA doesn't have the scientists to evaluate this information. In the technological age, scientific secrets are now considered more important than military secrets.

